



Having wriggled the length of the shallow trench on his belly, A1C Christopher Summers, 10th Missile Squadron, emerges from the 50-foot-long low-crawl pit and looks for enemy positions.



(Top) SrA. Jennifer Bernicker, 564th Missile Squadron, peeks around a barricade she has taken cover behind. (Bottom) A1C Eric Forrest, 490th Missile Squadron, pulls the pin on a training hand grenade and prepares to toss it at a bunker while SSgt. Erik Blatnik, 741st Security Forces Squadron, (wearing cap) monitors the action.



Saving Airman Ryan

Base security forces open new tactical course

Photos and story by SSgt. John Turner
Public Affairs Office



(Top) SSgt. Joe Bernicker sends A1C Victor Nelson forward to the next defensive position as Amn. Jeremy Cameron prepares to give covering fire. All three men are from the 564th Missile Squadron. (Middle) Fire team members shoot into a sand-bagged fighting position to neutralize hidden enemies. (Bottom) Concealed by clouds of colored smoke, forces advance to the truck where "Airman Ryan," a 165-lb. dummy, is waiting.



As bone-jarring ground burst simulators exploded all around them, nearly two dozen security forces members advanced through the grassy field. Shouting out to each other as they fired their weapons, their voices were barely heard over the clatter and popping of machine guns and small arms fire.

Out in the field ahead, shrouded in mists of colored smoke, lay barricades, stand-up targets, bunkers, tunnels and coils of concertina wire.

The fireteams crawled and dashed forward knowing they had two objectives. First, they had to find and evacuate "Airman Ryan," a 165-lb. dummy. Second, they had to do it with flair.

The airmen were giving the new Security Forces Tactical Course, located on the flightline behind the 741st Security Forces Mobility Operations Center its "baptism of fire" in a special demonstration Aug. 20 for Col. Greg Pavlovich, 341st Space Wing commander, Col. Marlon Yankee, 341st SW vice commander, and other key members of the wing's leadership. The performance was repeated Monday for Maj. Gen. Thomas Neary, 20th Air Force commander, and CMSgt. Terry Cook, 20th AF command chief master sergeant.

SSgt. Erik Blatnik, Security Forces readiness instructor, designed the course. Constructed almost entirely from excess and recycled materials from base, the total cost to build the course was only about \$75, he said.

The course will be used to train security forces on tactics and NCOs how to lead squads under fire.